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THE

MONTHLY



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GULL

BULLETIN

Volume 49

Berkeley, Calif.

October 1967

Number 10

OCTOBER MEETING TO BE ON WEDNESDAY

On **Wednesday, October 11, at 7:30 p.m.** Raymond Higgs will present a slide show entitled "A View Of Nature From a Questar." The meeting will be held in San Francisco's Hall of Flowers, Golden Gate Park, Ninth Avenue near Lincoln. Visitors are welcome. (The meeting will be on Wednesday instead of Thursday because the Hall of Flowers will be closed on Columbus Day.)—MRS. PHYLLIS ZWEIGART, *Program Chairman*.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

Saturday-Sunday, October 7-8, to Monterey Peninsula to observe migrating sea and land birds. The Saturday boat trip reservations are closed. The Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society has planned three land trips for Sunday (as listed in the September *Gull*):

(1) *Pacific Grove Shoreline*. Leaders: Capt. Elgin Hurlbert (USN Ret.), immediate past President, Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society. Meeting at Lover's Point parking area **8 a.m.** We'll visit Greenwood Park, Crespi Pond and Pt. Pinos, Asilomar Beaches. Land and shorebirds.

(2) *Moss Landing-Salinas River Mouth*. Leaders: Alan Baldridge and Bill Reese. Meet on Jetty Rd. ($\frac{1}{4}$ mile north of bridge over Elkhorn Slough) at **9 a.m.** Shorebirds

(3) *Point Lobos State Reserve*. Leader: Judson Vandevere. Meet at Reserve entrance at **9 a.m.** (There is a small entrance fee.) Land, shorebirds and sea mammals.

Saturday, October 21, to Point Reyes Peninsula, Marin County. Meet at Point Reyes National Seashore Headquarters near Olema at **9 a.m.** Leader: to be announced.

Sunday, October 29, to Bodega Bay, Sonoma County. The Madrone Audubon Society has invited us to join them on their Bodega Bay field trip. Meet at **8:30 a.m.** at the Tides Restaurant at Bodega Bay.

If enough birders are interested, we can plan a Thanksgiving weekend trip to Tule Lake in Northern California. If you are interested, please phone Mrs. Valeria DaCosta, 931-5257.

In late October and November we suggest individual trips to see waterfowl in the Wildlife Refuges at Willows and at Los Banos. Motel accommodations should be reserved in advance during hunting season.—MRS. VALERIA G. DaCOSTA, *Field Trips Chairman*.

If you receive this issue of *The Gull* by September 29, you may check on a possible reservation for Marin Audubon's October 29th pelagic trip to the Farallon Islands. Fare: \$10, leader: Dr. Ron Branson, departure from Sports Fishing Pier, Sausalito, 7 a.m. Phone Dr. Richard Doutt, 383-1559, (41 Millside Lane, Mill Valley).

"SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE AFRICAN WILDS"

G. Stuart Keith will bring "Sights and Sounds of the African Wilds" to Berkeley on **Monday, October 16**. On a recent expedition to East Africa for the American Museum of Natural History, Mr. Keith, noted ornithologist and wildlife photographer, produced a unique color film, complemented with natural sound recordings. This will be the first in the current season of Audubon Wildlife Films.

From the opening scenes on the deserts of Northern Kenya, viewers are transported to the lush serenity of Nairobi gardens, where songbirds flock to feeders and birdbaths. Among them are weavers, bulbuls, finches, babblers, wagtails and flycatchers. In the central highlands of Kenya, birds are found in abundance, as well as chameleons and butterflies. Among the giant heaths in the moorland zone of the mountains, the hill chat clings to its wind-blown perch, and the scarlet-tufted malachite sunbird sings in vibrant tones.

A dramatic highlight of the film is the effect of a long drought on the land and its wildlife. At Lake Nakuru thousands of flamingos feed on the dwindling supply of aquatic life, but many die. At nearby Lake Naivasha, a freshwater lake fringed with papyrus and dotted with water lilies, we find pelicans, wood storks, jabiru, fish eagles and lapwing plovers. Finally, the rains begin, and the landscape turns green almost overnight. Rhinoceros, impala, baboons, crested cranes, sacred ibis, Egyptian geese, and many other animals are revitalized by the advent of the rains.

A fascinating sequence on the nest building of the weaver birds, from the first blade of grass carefully twisted into place, to the finishing touches on the pendant basket, is a fitting climax to this colorful film.

An Englishman, and a graduate of Oxford University, Stuart Keith crossed the Atlantic in 1955 and decided to settle in America, where he promptly distinguished himself among naturalists by breaking Roger Tory Peterson's long-standing record for sighting the greatest number of birds in North America in a single year. His total of 594 species has yet to be challenged.

Mr. Keith's interest in birds was awakened at the age of sixteen when he was given a pair of binoculars. Most of his leisure time at school was spent in the field, and while in the military service in Hong Kong and Korea, he managed to study oriental birds during lulls in the fighting.

In 1958 he gave up a brief career in the business world in order to join the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. He first worked as a volunteer, and later became an Associate in the Department of Birds. On trips to the Orient in 1958 and again in 1960, he made a study of

Japanese cranes, and these birds were the subject of his first motion picture. For the past several years, he and his wife Ronnic, a herpetologist at the Museum, have sponsored a bird protection program in Japan, with special emphasis on cranes.

Mr. Keith is a director of the Alberta Wildlife Foundation, and secretary of the International Council for Bird Preservation, U.S. Section. He has spent several years in Eastern and Southern Africa on behalf of the Museum, and his film is a pictorial record of some of the highlights of his safaris.

"Sights and Sounds of the African Wilds" will be presented in the Garfield School Auditorium on Rose St. at Josephine St., Berkeley, at 8:15 p.m. October 16. The season ticket price for 5 wildlife films is \$5.00 for Audubon members, \$6.00 for non-members, and \$3.00 for students under 18. Single admission at the door for adults will be \$1.50 and for students \$1.00. You may buy season tickets now by sending a check (payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society) to Audubon Wildlife Films, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, CA 94701. **Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.** The Garfield School Auditorium is large enough for us to sell 200 additional tickets this year. MRS. FRANCES ELLEN FALLGATTER, *Audubon Wildlife Films Chairman.*

COVEL'S CONSERVATION CORNER

"Downtown Wildlife," a very significant and informative article in the August-September, 1967 issue of *National Wildlife*, will remind many readers of opportunities—and problems—some nature lovers overlook in their own backyards and communities. Of course, most of us feed the birds, but we wonder why someone doesn't try to estimate how much Golden Gate Audubon Society members, or all Eastbay or San Francisco birders spend for this purpose. Residents of Washington, D.C., this article reports, buy some 4500 tons of wild bird seed per year at a cost of more than a million dollars! Many of our hill-dwellers and suburbanites also feed raccoons, foxes, opossums, skunks—even deer—though more deer help themselves to garden plants and invoke bitter complaints to local officials (such as park naturalists) and to the Dept. of Fish and Game, as deer protectors.

But we should like to see local Audubon societies like G.G.A.S. relate themselves more closely and helpfully to "downtown and suburban wildlife" problems! Frankly, we speak from partly selfish, defensive motives. Since the demise of that unique "question-answer service" at the Berkeley Audubon Center, your Conservation Editor, his Naturalist staff, and our North Oakland "Bird Angel" (we fear to name) have been besieged with orphan bird calls. Telephone instructions on feeding and care would suffice in many instances, or a mimeographed sheet might be mailed to the parties calling. How about volunteers for a large G.G.A.S. "committee" to handle some of these calls next spring and enhance our local image? Such services would win friends and members for Audubon, and support for our bigger goals. Control—or "wildlife management"—are also required by some

local bird and mammal problems, and this must be explained to anxious citizens.

The "great Redwood National Park" impasse or snafu of 1967 leaves us with some rankling bitterness and frustration, but we'll return to this paramount issue when conservation forces rally for another drive early next year. Meanwhile, let us look for more encouraging news from farther afield. Much was found in the April-May-June issue of *Defenders of Wildlife News*, a conservation-crammed quarterly magazine listing many famous American naturalists amongst its officers and contributors.

So we learned with great satisfaction that the Province of Ontario would *not* sanction an all-out extermination drive on its wolves, as proposed by some short-sighted sportsmen. Closer to home, the Los Angeles City Council last March declared a new Owens Valley Wildlife Refuge on city-owned watershed in Owens Valley, home of the Tule Elk. Our old friend Frank Gander wrote a feature article on his Ringtails (Ring-tailed cat) at his Silverwood Wildlife Sanctuary in Lakeside, San Diego County, California, which we presume aided the recent passage of Ringtail protective legislation at Sacramento.

Over at Moss Beach on the San Mateo coast in July we found new "Proposed Marine Reserve" signs posted, first step toward future protection for this popular and depleted tidepool resort for which many of us have long urged some form of control. We must continue to advise families, teachers and youth leaders visiting tidepools that all live animals taken home are wasted unless a cold, circulating salt-water tank is available! Such an apparatus is very expensive and suitable only for science classrooms or museums.

(The above magazines and many more may be seen in the Rotary Natural Science Center Reference Library, Lakeside Park.)

—PAUL F. COVEL, *Conservation Chairman*.

WANDERING ALBATROSS REACHED SONOMA COAST

Two alert photographers—Dr. Hardy and Mr. McLane—took close-up pictures of a strange bird on July 12 on the Sonoma County coast north of Bodega Bay! They first sighted him on July 11 at 7:30 p.m.; he departed on July 12 at 3 p.m. When Mrs. Valeria DaCosta heard the news, she asked for the opportunity to examine the photographs and she obtained copies for Robert Paxton to take to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Drs. Alexander Wetmore, John W. Aldrich, and George E. Watson compared the photographs with specimens and identified it as a Wandering Albatross. Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy of the American Museum of Natural History in New York made the same identification. Watch the professional ornithological journals for full details of this unique, documented observation.

OBSERVATIONS

A Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) was observed by Natalie Mestechin and John Ralph at the RCA Station, Point Reyes Penin-

playing
RUSSIAN ROULETTE
with
NATURE

APRIL 6-9, 1968

PORTRAYING MAN'S GAMBLE WITH

AIR

WATER

NATIONAL

National Audubon Society Western Conference

ASILOMAR, PACIFIC GROVE, CALIFORNIA — APRIL 6-9, 1968

Conference Theme:

“PLAYING RUSSIAN ROULETTE WITH NATURE”

★ ★ ★

“Conservation is a state of harmony between man and land. By land is meant all the things on, over or in the earth. Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend . . .”
Aldo Leopold (Round River)

★ ★ ★

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

(Preliminary and subject to revision)

SATURDAY — April 6:

REGISTRATION OPENS (1 P.M.)
HOSPITALITY — Monterey Peninsula Audubon Society
SAN FRANCISCO INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION OF NATURE SLIDES (4 P.M.)
BUFFET DINNER
Evening Program — Keynote Address:
“MAN SPINS THE CYLINDERS”

SUNDAY — April 7:

Early Morning Nature Saunter
Morning Program:
“MAN AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES”
“THIS CROWDED PLANET”
Afternoon Program:
“CALIFORNIA GAMBLER WITH NATURE”
“CALIFORNIA REDUCES THE ODDS”
Evening Program — Conference Address:
“THE NATIONAL OUTLOOK”
Feature Film
“CALIFORNIA” — An Introduction to the Ecological Health of an American Region.
(Produced by Environmental Television Institute)

ATTENTION! To gladii.

NATURAL AREAS — OPEN SPACES — NATURE CENTERS
Evening Program — Concluding Address:
"EDUCATION — THE SAFE CYLINDER"

TUESDAY — April 9:

Morning Program:

FILM FESTIVAL (The latest in Conservation Films)

Noon:

Box Lunches for All (Ready at 8 A.M.)
Tidepool Explorations (informal)
CONFERENCE ADJOURNS (1 P.M.)

CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

(partial list)

SHERRY BALLARD, APSA
CHARLES H. CALLISON
ROLAND C. CLEMENT
NORMAN B. LIVERMORE, JR.
GEORG TREICHEL

RICHARD E. WARNER
SAMUEL E. WOOD

— *Photochrome Club of San Francisco — Co-ordinator*
— *Executive Vice-President, National Audubon Society*
— *Vice-President, National Audubon Society*
— *Administrator, The Resources Agency of California*
— *Director, Center for Study of General Ecology and Environmental Planning, San Francisco State College*
— *Foundation of Environmental Biology*
— *Executive Director, California Tomorrow*

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MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS MAY ATTEND



WILDLIFE

AUDUBON

western conference

SEE OTHER SIDE

Photo by: John F. Shrawder

sula, August 19 and 20. Ten birders from Golden Gate and three from Sequoia Audubon watched the "casual" visitor on August 22; he was photographed on August 25. Four Golden Gate members saw him on August 29 in the same area.

Elsie Roemer found an Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*) near the Alameda Golf Course on September 2, and on September 4 Enid Austin and Elsie watched him catching flying insects and wagging his tail.

Naturalist Josh Barkin observed a Clark's Nutcracker in *mid-August* in the Oakland hills near Skyline and Redwood Road.

Mr. and Mrs. Werner Schumann saw two Flamingos on the salt ponds at Elkhorn Slough near Moss Landing on August 29 in the evening. They were in good color—pinker than the ones the Schumanns had seen at the San Diego Zoo a year ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Pride (Ada) described a bird perched on the telephone wire near the second floor of their home in the Montclair district of Oakland, September 4, as follows: Dark gray back, light underneath, gray tail about 9 inches long and no white spots, tail almost twice as long as his body, and he frequently spread his tail. Mrs. Pride had recently watched the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher at Pt. Reyes RCA Station and said the Oakland bird was not the same. She reported it to Mrs. "Bud" Fry and Mrs. Roberta Long, who said the description suggested the Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora tyrannus*), which Mrs. Long had seen in South America. Pough's *Audubon Western Bird Guide* has an illustration of this unusual flycatcher on Plate 17. Pough gives its range as "Lowlands of eastern Mexico from Veracruz through South America to northern Patagonia. Numerous records of its accidental occurrence in the United States from Maine south." We hope to receive additional Bay Area observations of this long-tailed visitor.

POINT REYES BIRD OBSERVATORY NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

"Land Bird Survey Routes Initiated. Three bird observation routes have been laid out for the occasional visitor to the Observatory. If you have no project going at the Observatory and you would like to do something fun as well as useful, you should give one a try. All you need to do is pick up a reporting form at the office, find one of the three first stations and go. Five minutes should be spent at each station, during which all the birds seen and heard are marked on the form. Stations are on a well-marked trail or road and are marked by a numbered post with the distance in feet to the next station given. There are ten stations along the upper Arroyo Honda (above the bridge), ten in a loop below the bridge, and seven at Abalone Point. If enough people make observations we should have a good idea of what birds occur and when, and thus be able to compare the numerical status of the birds in an approximate way from year to year. These data will complement and add to the banding data. Come out and have a nice easy hike in a beautiful area and see some birds too!

Record Keeping. A natural by-product of the Observatory's rapid expansion on several fronts is the vast increase in the records necessary for analyzing the mass of data accumulated. More help is needed in record

keeping and we need a volunteer to devote one day a week to helping on a variety of records. No experience in identifying birds is required, but the work provides a mine of ornithological information. Anyone who can spare the time on any day of the week for this vital work should call John Ralph at the Observatory (868-1221).”—**PRBO Newsletter**, August 1967.

Point Reyes Bird Observatory is continuing the Banding Training Program throughout the fall on Saturday mornings. This program includes demonstrations of netting and trapping techniques of both land and water birds and is open to all interested persons. The class begins at 9 a.m. every Saturday at the Observatory headquarters at the end of Mesa Road in Bolinas.

NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION BOOK STORE

William N. Goodall, our National Audubon Western Representative, has notified us that the B. W. Lucas College Book Company in Berkeley now carries many of the natural history and conservation books, publications, teaching texts and resources, as well as children's books and nature games formerly available at the Audubon Conservation Resource Center. In addition, Audubon Bulletins, Charts, Pins, Decals and Arm Bands, together with a variety of bird feeders are featured. The address is well known to all Audubon members and friends for it is the same—2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. This special natural history and conservation resource store is open six days a week from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mail orders will receive prompt attention. The telephone number is 848-3311 (code 415). The National Audubon Society, together with the Office of the Western Representative, hopes its many members and friends will support the Lucas College Book Company in its efforts to serve you and your special nature interests.

The *Annotated Field List of Birds of Northern California* is now available from the Lucas College Book Company for \$1.00 (\$1.25 by mail). Copies may also be ordered by mail from Mrs. Alice D. Radcliffe, 2101 Bay St., San Francisco 94123.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: From *Berkeley* Susan Barrett, Mrs. D. Cameron, Don Denison, David Dennis, C. E. Detar, Neal Furby, Max Gardner, Mrs. M. Gillies, R. H. Hawkins & Family, Corinne Howard, David & Eve Hupp, Mrs. M. C. Jones, Mrs. G. Lesnini, Marie Lowell, Mrs. Paul Magilligan, Mrs. H. S. Mardock, Frederick McHair Jr., Rebecca Mills, Mr. & Mrs. Ray Stenmark, Mrs. Angus Taylor, Dr. Mary Jean Trudeau. From *Oakland*, Arthur D. Abel. From *San Francisco*, Helen Andrejeff, Henry M. Bowles, T. A. Bratz, Jr., Beryl C. Briggs, Harriette King, Ann McDaniel, Rodney Odgers, Lucy Sanger, Walter Valdi, Charles N. Whitehead, Dorothy Whitnah. From *Atherton*, Mr. and Mrs. William Davidow. From *Burlingame*, Dr. & Mrs. Howard Rosenthal. From *El Sobrante*, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Craven, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Nemanich. From *Lafayette*, Mrs. W. B. Scarborough. From *Orinda*, Mrs. F. B. Hilmer. From *Walnut Creek*, Miss Charlotte Lane, Mrs. M. J. Patterson.

—MRS. ZELLA CUSHMAN, *Membership Secretary*

Chandler S. Robbins and Willet T. Van Velzen are co-authors of a Special Scientific Report entitled *The Breeding Bird Survey*, 1966 published by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, U.S. Dept. of the Interior. The Breeding Bird Survey of a large section of North America was conducted during June 1966 in 26 eastern States and 4 Canadian Provinces. Future surveys are planned for the rest of the continental United States.

THE CYGNET IS FOR CHILDREN

The Cygnet is an illustrated bulletin published especially for children by the Golden Gate Audubon Society. The Editor is Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg, 2585 Union St., San Francisco 94123. You may give a child a year's subscription by sending \$1 to Mrs. Nickelsburg. She also welcomes letters from the children.



AUDUBON CANYON RANCH, BOLINAS LAGOON

Under joint sponsorship of Golden Gate and Marin Audubon Societies to protect a major rookery of Common Egrets and Great Blue Herons.

The following gifts of remembrance were made to Audubon Canyon Ranch:

In Memory of:

Ruth Newburgh The Staff of the Bert H. Fulton School of
Tinley Park, Illinois, and Betty W. Russell, Brenda Fischer,
Vi Homem

Mme. Sugako Yamashina Elgin G. Hurlbert

Ruth Sheldon Arnot Mrs. Wilber Swett

Louis A. Elmore Mr. and Mrs. Woodford Harrison, Helen Ericsson,
Clara V. Black

Ivander MacIver Frances J. Blake, Harriet Parsons

Mrs. Sophie Downs Vi Homem

—DR. ALBERT BOLES, *Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman*,
854 Longridge Rd., Oakland, CA 94610

The Ross Valley 4-H Club volunteers still need Blue Chip stamps to complete their goal of raising \$800 to pay for a *third* acre of Audubon Canyon Ranch. The 4-H Club has already presented two acres to the Ranch by raising \$1600. Please continue to help the Club help the Ranch by sending your Blue Chip stamps to the Ross Valley 4-H Club, care of Agricultural Extension, Civic Center, San Rafael, CA 94901.



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1967

THE GULL

OCTOBER

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

President	Mrs. Herbert Boese	6840 Colton Blvd., Oakland 94611	339-8374
Vice President	Joshua Barkin	Tilden Park Nature Area, Berkeley 94708	524-2495
Vice President	Edgar N. Stone	3867 Washington St., San Francisco 94118	751-2601
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Editor	Mrs. Violet Homem	6911 Armour Dr., Oakland 94611	655-8886
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Membership Chairman	Miss Aileen Pierson	810 Gonzalez Dr., San Francisco 94132	587-4163
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Zella Cushman	3156 Gough, San Francisco 94123	673-5310
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Education Chairman	Mrs. Janet Nickelsburg	2585 Union, San Francisco 94123	921-9449
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Wildlife Film Chairman	Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter	406 El Cerrito, Piedmont 94611	655-9582
Conservation Chairman	Paul F. Covell	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 94602	536-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Distribution Chairman	Mrs. Bonnie Smith	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco 94116	681-7635

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Secretary.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National \$8.50 per year, Includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

The *Gull* deadline is the first of the month for the following month.